

REMARKS

Claims 1-5; 6-13; 14; 15-18; and 19-20 are pending in the application with Claims 14-18 previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-13, 19 and 20 are rejected. Independent Claims 1; 6 and 19 and dependent Claims 8-10 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration for the reasons below.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 is amended to recite that *the humidifying agent includes water*.

Claim 6 is amended to recite that the interior injectors are *in fluid communication with a supply of humidifying agent including water*.

Claim 19 is amended to recite that the humidifying agent includes *water*.

Support for these amendments may be found, inter alia, on page 10, line 21 through page 11, line 2; and, on page 21, line 19 through page 22, line 55.

Claims 8, 9 and 10 are also amended to replace the recitation of *device* with the recitation of *system*.

Entry and consideration of these amendments is respectfully requested in an effort to advance prosecution of the instant case.

35 U.S.C. §103

The Office maintains the rejections of Claims 1-13 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,315,551 ("Salzsieder"). The Office notes that Applicant's previous arguments were not persuasive because Applicant did not claim "water" as the humidifying agent. Applicant appreciates the Office's suggestions and currently amends independent Claims 1, 6, and 19 to recite that the humidifying agent includes *water*. As such, Applicant reasserts the arguments previously presented and respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of the instant rejections.

Applicant respectfully notes that because Applicant has addressed certain comments of the Office does not mean that Applicant concedes other comments of the Office. Further, the

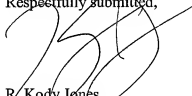
fact that Applicant has made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean there are not other good reasons for the patentability of those or other claims.

Applicant also wishes to refer the Office to co-pending and commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 10/742,260 and the references cited therein.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that by this amendment, the case is placed in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If, however, any issue remains unresolved, applicant's attorney would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,



R. Kody Jones
Registration No. 57,237
MacCord Mason PLLC
P. O. Box 2974
Greensboro, NC 27402
(336) 273-4422

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